

## Chapter 1 Introduction

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) establishes water quality objectives and monitoring plans to protect a variety of the beneficial uses of water within the upper San Francisco Estuary. The SWRCB ensures that these objectives are met in part by the inclusion of water quality monitoring requirements into water right decisions issued to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) as conditions for operating the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) respectively. These requirements include minimum outflows, limits to water exportation by the SWP and CVP, and maximum allowable salinity levels. In addition, DWR and USBR are required to conduct a comprehensive monitoring program to determine compliance with the water quality objectives, and report the findings to the SWRCB. Water quality objectives were issued in December 1999 by Water Right Decision 1641 (D-1641) (SWRCB 1999).

Data collected since 1975 by the Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) are stored and managed by DWR and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). DWR manages phytoplankton data and macro-benthic organism data, as well as environmental water quality data from both discrete and continuous monitoring stations. DFG manages all zooplankton data. Internet access and download of the EMP data is available through the Bay Delta and Tributaries Database (BDAT) at [www.baydelta.ca.gov](http://www.baydelta.ca.gov).<sup>1</sup>

This report, entitled *Water Quality Conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun and San Pablo Bays during 2003*, summarizes the findings of the EMP for calendar year 2003. Separate chapters are devoted to the water quality, benthic, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and special study components of the EMP. Within each chapter, the major patterns and trends demonstrated by the water quality and biological data within and between years are described in the text and displayed in summary plots and tables. This report is submitted to the SWRCB to fulfill the reporting requirements of D-1641.

## References

[SWRCB] State Water Resources Control Board. 1999. *Water Rights Decision 1641 for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh*. Sacramento, California.

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<sup>1</sup> For specific questions about EMP data on BDAT, contact Mr. Karl Jacobs, Chief, Interagency Information System Services Section, Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Studies, 901 P Street, Sacramento, CA. 95814, telephone: (916) 651-9581, or by e-mail at [kjacobs@water.ca.gov](mailto:kjacobs@water.ca.gov).

